

The Washington Post

This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 12-15, 2013, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults, including landline and cell phone-only respondents. Results have a four point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	47	25	22	47	11	37	6
7/21/13	49	25	24	44	12	32	7
5/19/13	51	32	20	44	10	33	5
4/14/13	50	27	23	45	10	35	5
3/10/13	50	29	21	46	11	36	4
1/13/13	55	32	23	41	8	33	4
12/16/12	54	33	21	42	9	32	5
11/4/12 RV	52	33	10	46	10	36	2
11/3/12 RV	51	33	10	47	10	37	2
11/2/12 RV	51	32	11	47	11	36	2
11/1/12 RV	50	31	11	48	11	37	2
10/31/12 RV	50	30	11	48	11	37	2
10/30/12 RV	50	28	12	48	12	37	2
10/29/12 RV	50	28	11	48	11	36	2
10/28/12 RV	51	28	11	46	11	36	3
10/27/12 RV	50	28	11	46	11	36	3
10/26/12 RV	51	29	10	46	10	36	3
10/25/12 RV	50	29	9	47	9	37	3
10/24/12 RV	50	29	10	48	10	38	3
10/23/12 RV	50	29	21	47	9	37	3
10/22/12 RV	50	30	20	47	10	38	3
10/21/12 RV	51	31	20	47	10	37	2
10/13/12	50	30	21	44	10	34	6
9/29/12	50	26	24	46	12	34	4
9/9/12	49	29	20	45	11	35	6
8/25/12	50	27	23	46	13	33	4
7/8/12	47	24	24	49	15	34	4
5/20/12	47	26	21	49	13	36	3
4/8/12	50	30	20	45	10	35	6
3/10/12	46	28	18	50	11	39	4
2/4/12	50	29	22	46	11	36	3
1/15/12	48	25	23	48	11	37	4
12/18/11	49	25	24	47	13	34	4
11/3/11	44	22	22	53	15	37	3
10/2/11	42	21	21	54	14	40	4
9/1/11	43	21	22	53	16	38	3
8/9/11*	44	18	26	46	9	37	10
7/17/11	47	25	22	48	14	35	5
6/5/11	47	27	20	49	13	37	4
5/2/11**	56	29	27	38	14	24	6
4/17/11	47	27	21	50	12	37	3
3/13/11	51	27	24	45	12	33	4
1/16/11	54	30	23	43	15	28	3
12/12/10	49	24	25	47	15	32	4
10/28/10	50	27	23	45	11	34	5
10/3/10	50	26	24	47	13	34	3
9/2/10	46	24	22	52	14	38	3

7/11/10	50	28	22	47	12	35	3
6/6/10	52	30	22	45	12	33	4
4/25/10	54	31	23	44	11	33	3
3/26/10	53	34	20	43	8	35	3
2/8/10	51	29	22	46	12	33	3
1/15/10	53	30	24	44	13	32	2
12/13/09	50	31	18	46	13	33	4
11/15/09	56	32	23	42	13	29	2
10/18/09	57	33	23	40	11	29	3
9/12/09	54	35	19	43	12	31	3
8/17/09	57	35	21	40	11	29	3
7/18/09	59	38	22	37	9	28	4
6/21/09	65	36	29	31	10	22	4
4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
3/29/09	66	40	26	29	9	20	5
2/22/09	68	43	25	25	8	17	7

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2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

9/15/13 - Summary Table*

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	op.
a. The economy	45	25	20	51	14	37	4
b. The situation in Syria	36	19	17	53	14	39	11
c. International affairs	47	25	22	44	11	33	9

Item d held for release.

*Full sample asked items a and b; half sample asked item c; other half sample asked item d.

Trend:

a. The economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	45	25	20	51	14	37	4
7/21/13	45	22	22	49	14	35	6
5/19/13	48	26	22	48	10	37	4
4/14/13	44	22	22	53	12	41	3
3/10/13	44	24	20	52	10	42	4
1/13/13	50	24	25	47	10	37	3
12/16/12	50	27	23	48	10	38	3
10/13/12 RV	47	26	21	51	10	41	2
9/29/12 RV	47	23	25	52	10	41	1
9/9/12 RV	45	24	21	53	8	45	2
8/25/12	44	20	23	54	12	42	3
7/8/12	44	21	23	54	13	41	2
5/20/12	42	20	22	55	11	44	2
4/8/12	44	23	21	54	12	42	2
3/10/12	38	20	18	59	9	50	2
2/4/12	44	23	22	53	11	41	3
1/15/12	41	19	22	57	11	46	2
12/18/11	41	17	24	56	13	43	2
11/3/11	38	18	20	61	13	48	2
10/2/11	35	17	19	61	13	48	4
9/1/11	36	15	21	62	15	47	2
7/17/11	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
6/5/11	40	20	20	59	10	49	2

5/2/11*	40	18	22	55	16	39	4
4/17/11	42	23	19	57	11	46	2
3/13/11	43	22	21	55	13	41	2
1/16/11	46	22	24	51	13	38	2
12/12/10	43	21	22	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 RV	44	21	23	54	15	39	3
10/3/10	45	22	23	53	13	41	2
9/2/10	41	20	21	57	13	44	2
7/11/10	43	20	23	54	13	41	4
6/6/10	50	26	24	49	12	37	2
4/25/10	49	24	25	49	10	39	2
3/26/10	45	23	22	52	12	40	3
2/8/10	45	22	23	53	15	38	2
1/15/10	47	22	24	52	13	39	1
12/13/09	46	23	24	52	12	40	2
11/15/09	51	26	25	47	12	36	2
10/18/09	50	29	22	48	13	35	1
9/12/09	51	28	24	46	13	33	2
8/17/09	52	27	25	46	13	33	2
7/18/09	52	29	23	46	10	35	3
6/21/09	56	28	28	41	13	27	3
4/24/09	58	31	28	38	13	25	4
3/29/09	60	34	25	38	12	26	3
2/22/09	60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6

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b. No trend.

c. International affairs

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	47	25	22	44	11	33	9
12/16/12	54	32	22	39	11	28	7
9/29/12 RV	49	28	20	48	12	36	3
5/20/12	48	30	18	46	15	31	6
4/8/12	47	24	23	44	11	33	9
1/15/12	49	26	23	44	10	33	7
11/3/11	47	26	21	45	13	31	8
11/15/09	60	30	30	37	13	23	3
10/18/09	57	34	23	36	15	21	7
9/12/09	57	32	25	33	12	21	10
6/21/09	61	NA	NA	32	NA	NA	7
4/24/09	67			27			6
3/29/09	62	"	"	27	"	"	11

3. Who do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM] - (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)?

9/15/13 - Summary Table

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. The economy	44	38	1	12	5
b. The situation in Syria	42	34	2	14	7
c. Negotiations over the federal budget	43	40	1	12	4

Item d held for release.

Trend:

a. The economy

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/15/13	44	38	1	12	5
5/19/13	46	37	1	12	4
3/10/13	44	40	1	11	4
12/16/12	54	36	1	7	1
1/15/12	43	41	1	12	3
12/18/11	44	40	1	13	2
11/3/11	42	42	1	12	2
10/2/11	43	42	1	11	2
9/1/11	42	39	1	16	2
6/5/11	42	45	2	9	2
3/13/11	46	34	2	15	4
1/16/11	46	41	3	7	3
12/12/10	44	45	2	7	2
4/25/10	49	38	1	9	2
2/8/10	47	42	1	7	2
12/13/09	48	36	1	12	3
11/15/09	52	37	1	8	1
9/12/09	48	37	1	12	2
7/18/09	56	33	1	9	2
6/21/09	55	31	2	9	2
4/24/09	61	24	2	11	2
3/29/09	58	25	1	14	2
2/22/09	61	26	1	9	3

b. No trend.

4. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Obama, or not: [ITEM]?

9/15/13 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. He is a strong leader	54	44	2
b. He shares your values	47	49	4
c. He sticks with his principles	60	37	4
d. He is a good commander in chief of the military	52	43	5

Trend:

a. He is a strong leader

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/13	54	44	2
1/13/13	61	37	2
1/15/12	51	48	1
11/3/11	48	51	1
6/5/11	55	44	1
6/6/10	57	43	1
3/26/10	65	33	2
1/15/10	63	35	1
7/18/09	71	27	2
4/24/09	77	22	2
1/16/09	72	18	10

b. He shares your values

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/13	47	49	4
1/15/12	49	49	3
11/3/11	49	49	2
6/5/11	49	49	3

9/2/10	49	50	1
1/15/10	55	43	1
4/24/09	60	38	2
1/16/09	67	30	3
7/13/08	56	39	5

c. He sticks with his principles

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/13	60	37	4
1/15/12	61	35	4

d. He is a good commander in chief of the military

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/13	52	43	5
7/18/09	56	37	7
4/24/09	56	34	10
1/16/09*	62	32	7
9/29/08** RV	46	48	5
9/22/08** RV	48	47	5
7/13/08**	48	48	4

*"will be"

**"would be"

5. The United States says it has determined that the Syrian government has used chemical weapons in the civil war there. Given this, do you support or oppose the United States launching missile strikes against the Syrian government? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	30	17	13	61	15	45	10
9/8/13	30	14	16	64	21	44	6
9/1/13	36	18	18	59	21	39	5

6. Do you think America's vital interests are at stake in the situation involving Syria, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/13	45	48	8

Compare to:

Iraq

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/20/03	67	26	7

Israel and the Palestinian Authority

	Yes	No	No opinion
4/21/02	61	35	5

Kosovo

	Yes	No	No opinion
4/8/99	47	49	4
4/6/99	46	49	5
4/5/99	46	50	4
3/30/99	47	42	11
3/28/99	42	44	14
3/26/99	39	51	10

3/23/99	41	54	5
3/14/99	27	57	15

Bosnia

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/3/95	39	53	8
11/29/95	35	57	7
11/27/95	39	51	10
11/13/95	35	56	9
7/17/95	36	59	5
6/26/94	31	58	11

Haiti

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/15/94	31	57	11
9/11/94	28	62	9
8/7/94	31	59	10
7/17/94	44	50	6
6/26/94	38	52	10
5/15/94	30	56	14
10/12/93	28	65	7

North Korea

	Yes	No	No opinion
7/17/94	61	32	7
6/26/94	63	28	9
6/8/94	58	33	9
3/27/94	59	34	7

Rwanda

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/26/94	18	63	19
5/3/94	33	59	8

Somalia

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/12/93	23	73	5
10/5/93	21	69	10

7. As an alternative to missile strikes, Russia has proposed a plan to have Syria place all of its chemical weapons under control of the United Nations, which would then destroy them. Do you support or oppose this plan? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Support			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/15/13	79	57	22	16	6	10	4

8. How confident are you that Syria would in fact give up all of its chemical weapons under this plan - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	Confident			Not confident			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
9/15/13	29	4	26	68	34	34	2

9. Do you think the threat of U.S. missile strikes has (helped the situation by pressuring Syria to give up its chemical weapons), or (hurt the situation by increasing international tensions)?

	Helped the situation	Hurt the situation	No effect (vol.)	No opinion
9/15/13	47	40	3	10

10. As far as you've heard or read, in his address to the nation Tuesday night, how well did Obama make his case for taking action against the Syrian government - would you say he was very persuasive, somewhat persuasive, somewhat unpersuasive or very unpersuasive?

	---- Persuasive ----			--- Unpersuasive ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
9/15/13	47	15	31	32	17	15	21

11. If the diplomatic efforts to take control of Syria's chemical weapons do not work, do you think Congress should or should not approve the use of military force against Syria?

	Should approve	Should not approve	No opinion
9/15/13	44	48	8

12. Overall, do you think Obama's handling of the situation with Syria has (strengthened) U.S. leadership in the world, (weakened) it, or has it not made much difference to U.S. leadership? Was that a great deal or somewhat?

	--- Strengthened ---			----- Weakened -----			Not made much difference	No opinion
	NET	A great deal	Smwht	NET	Smwht	A great deal		
9/15/13	17	7	10	32	14	18	46	4

Changing topics...

13. It's been five years since the beginning of the financial crisis and the economic downturn that followed. Compared with the worst of that crisis, from your perspective has the economy improved a great deal, improved somewhat, improved just a little or not improved at all?

	----- Improved -----			----- Not improved -----				No opinion
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Just a little	Not at all	Got worse (vol.)	
9/15/13	45	10	35	54	32	22	1	*

14a. Do you think the federal government has or has not taken adequate measures to prevent another financial crisis in the future?

	Has	Has not	No opinion
9/15/13	28	66	7

14b. Do you think the country's banks and other financial institutions have or have not taken adequate measures to prevent another financial crisis in the future?

	Have	Have not	No opinion
9/15/13	27	62	11

15. How confident are you, if at all, that the country will be able to avoid another financial crisis in the future - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	----- Confident -----			----- Not confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
9/15/13	37	6	32	62	35	26	1

On another subject,

16. What do you think is better - for Congress to raise the debt limit so the government can keep paying its bills and obligations or for Congress not to raise the debt limit and let the government default on paying its bills and obligations?

	Raise the debt limit	Not raise the debt limit	No opinion
9/15/13	46	43	10

17. If the government cannot borrow more money to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think that would or would not cause serious harm to the U.S. economy?

	Would	Would not	No opinion
9/15/13	73	22	6
7/17/11*	82	16	2

* included "after August second"

Compare to: As you may have heard, in August the federal government will reach its debt limit. Unless Congress raises the amount of money the government can borrow, the government would not be able to borrow more to fund its operations and pay its debts. If the limit is not raised, do you think that would or would not cause serious harm to the U.S. economy?

	Would	Would not	No opinion
6/5/11	71	22	6

On a related issue,

18. Do you think Obama is doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount to compromise with the Republican leaders in Congress on a budget plan?

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	No opinion
9/15/13	10	49	36	5

Compare to: Do you think Obama is doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount to compromise with the Republican leaders in Congress on important issues?

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	No opinion
1/13/13	10	48	38	5
4/17/11	12	48	38	2
12/12/10	11	40	45	4
2/8/10	9	44	45	2

19. Do you think the Republican leaders in Congress are doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount to compromise with Obama on a budget plan?

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	No opinion
9/15/13	10	64	22	4

Compare to: Do you think the Republican leaders in Congress are doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount to compromise with Obama on important issues?

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	No opinion
1/13/13	10	67	17	5
12/12/10	8	54	32	7
2/8/10	8	58	30	4

20. As you may know, automatic across-the-board cuts in federal spending have taken effect because Obama and the Republicans in Congress were unable to reach a budget agreement earlier this year. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of these budget cuts taking place? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/15/13	43	19	24	50	21	30	7
5/19/13*	35	16	20	56	18	39	8
4/14/13	35	16	19	57	20	37	8
3/10/13**	39	16	23	53	19	34	8

*5/19 and previous have begun to take effect"

**"unable to reach a budget agreement last week"

Questions 21 through end held for release.

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
9/15/13	34	23	34	4	4
7/21/13	31	21	37	7	4
5/19/13	33	22	38	5	2
4/14/13	33	23	36	5	3
3/10/13	33	25	35	5	2
1/13/13	33	24	37	5	1
12/16/12	31	24	38	4	4
11/4/12	33	25	34	4	5
11/4/12 RV	33	27	35	3	2
11/4/12 LV	35	29	32	3	1
10/13/12	33	22	37	4	4
9/29/12	31	25	36	5	3
9/9/12	33	23	37	4	3
8/25/12	31	22	39	6	3
7/8/12	33	24	36	4	3
5/20/12	32	22	38	7	2
4/18/12	34	23	34	5	3
3/10/12	31	27	36	3	3
2/12/12	34	23	37	5	1
1/15/12	32	25	36	5	2

*** END ***